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Corn Belt studies its homes

Central States Housing Conference Focuses on Farmstead Improvement

■ What help does the farm family need in order to get the kind of housing they want and should have? The consensus at the Central States Housing Conference was that housing must occupy an important place in the extension educational program. It was said again and again that education in housing must be on a volume basis.

Back of education must always be research, and important in this field is the work of the Central Experiment Station Farm Structures Committee reported at the conference by the late Mr. F. R. Immer of Minnesota. Fourteen Central States and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are collaborating. The research is organized in 13 subcommittees, including one on farmhouses, one on farmstead planning, one on the utilization of building materials, and another on the Midwest plan service. Each committee is working on a regional publication—the housing bulletin to be published in Illinois.

Rural Builders Need Training

Training of rural builders is one of the immediate problems facing the researchers. Short courses for builders—in some cases for a year and in others on a shorter-term basis—are helping, but more are needed. The use of local materials to supplement the scarce lumber is another problem of the immediate future getting attention from the experiment stations. They are studying ways of cutting the cost, the comparative value of one- and two-story barns and labor-saving design.

The Midwest plan service was initiated in 1932. For support it depends on sale of plans, of which 300 are now available. An annual revision of a new catalog of plans and the development of a more comprehensive service with the cooperation of associations of manufacturers are two improvements under way.

No matter how valuable the facts uncovered, they will do no good unless they become easily available to farm-

ers and their families through county extension workers with a good county housing-education program.

Local Sponsoring Committee Helpful

Discussion of a county housing program included the value of a local sponsoring committee, including farm people, dealers, architects, and other interested agencies and individuals. This committee should study needs, develop programs, plan meetings, demonstrations, publicity, exhibits, and other educational activities which will help those planning to build or remodel. The tried and true extension devices such as demonstrations, tours, and exhibits can easily be adapted to the housing problem.

County Reading Center Recommended

The suggestion that each county extension office have a reading center filled with reference materials on planning, building, finishing, furnishing, and similar subjects interested the conferees. The self-evident truth that the farm family must have the information *before* they build was emphasized by R. B. Hull, landscape specialist in Indiana. He has had satisfactory results in helping to re-plan the entire farmstead lay-out when a new building was contemplated, avoiding the mistake of putting the new building on the old site when it does not give efficient working and living conditions.

Agent Needs Training

To organize an effective county program, extension agents will need to be trained in this new field, and some agents will have more aptitude for it than others. They should know the functional needs of farm families in their counties and the personal and esthetic preferences of local people as well as the fundamental principles of good farmstead lay-outs and materials suitable and available for building in that particular area.

Demonstration houses are most effective when the family know just what is involved before they agree to

undertake the demonstration, and plenty of opportunity is given for people to inspect the house. It is helpful when local architects, builders, and dealers are especially invited to the demonstration homes. Close contact with local dealers to keep them informed of recommendations made by specialists and to see that they get copies of all materials put out, pays dividends in a housing program.

Three outstanding features of the conference were the visual material from Illinois which was demonstrated by Keith Hinchcliff; the discussion on organization of a State housing program, by Spence Cleland of Minnesota; and the methods used in both Illinois and Minnesota to train extension agents.

Housing Is Part of Over-All Program

Housing, it was brought out, is not a separate program but must be integrated into the over-all extension program. After returning home, one of South Dakota's district agents, Clarence Shanley, wrote: "The forester, the landscape architect, the agricultural engineer, and the rural architect will all have a part in laying out the farmstead. The livestock men, including poultry and dairy, should be in on planning the different buildings so they will meet the needs of the farm. The women may not be so interested in the details of the hog barn or the cattle barn, but they should be in on the planning of about everything else. I can't think of anything in the program that the farm management specialist would not be interested in." This looks like a real job for the State program planners.

Representatives attending the Central States Conference included directors, county agent leaders, home demonstration leaders, district agents, county agents, home management and farm management specialists, economists, and landscape architects.

TODAY'S HOME BUILDS TOMORROW'S WORLD is the theme of Home Demonstration Week to be observed by local clubs and national radio programs throughout the country May 5-12, 1946.

Today's vision is tomorrow's action

LITA BANE, Head, Department of Home Economics, University of Illinois

The job of the home demonstration agent is close to the heart of Miss Bane, who has followed the work since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act. Her thoughtful discussion of the future of home demonstration work was first made at the annual meeting of the Home Demonstration Agents Association in Chicago, December 5, and is given here in a shortened version.

■ From the beginning, home economics has been closely related to agriculture in the extension program—so closely related in some instances that home economics stood in danger of losing its identity and representing rather those phases of production commonly carried on by farm women—gardens, poultry, canning, and the rest. As a matter of fact, at an early regional conference a State leader and a competent one, after telling about their project on building a new kind of chicken coop, closed her talk by saying, “We are building on a broad foundation and for eternity.” Not long ago I came across my notes made at that meeting and I had added “by building chicken coops.” Now we may begin by building chicken coops, but as home economists having faith in the ideals of our profession, we dare not stop there.

Today finds us still closely related to agriculture because in the main we are working with farm women. Much of our work for some time will doubtless continue to be with them, but there seems to be a handwriting on the wall that eventually all homemakers, city and country, will insist upon having help. If it does not come through existing agencies, I believe new organizations and services will have to be set up. In the main, home economics extension has undoubtedly been better off because of its close relation to agriculture, in spite of the struggle to maintain our identity and our independence of action.

The 1940 Yearbook of Agriculture says:

“Hitherto the problems of commercial farmers have almost completely dominated agricultural thinking and policy. These problems still bulk very

large, as they should, but they no longer tell the whole story.

“All of our attention was concentrated on the science of material things. But the greatest discoveries about gasoline, steel, rubber, fertilizers, bacteria, insects, however much they contribute to better production, tell us little about how to live wisely. In fact, they often complicate living enormously—individual living and social living. Seeing the effects of this complication, we have come to realize that there are other great areas about which we are badly in need of scientific knowledge. We need to know a

great deal more about such vital problems as what kind of environment human beings need for their best development, how to create such an environment; why we human beings so often make a mess of our affairs in spite of all our great achievements.”

But if there is truth in the prophetic words I have just read, it means that home economists must play a much more important rôle in the future.

Home economists, as such, no matter how good-willed they are or how many 18-hour days they put in, cannot solve all the world problems of which even the least experienced among us is acutely conscious. We, single-handed, cannot repair the damage that has been done to our society. The temptation is great, particularly in times of world-wide distress, to race all over the lot doing a little here and there and hoping that because we have spent ourselves so unselfishly the results are bound to be the best we can make them. That conclusion I believe to be unsound. We are tempted to follow the example of the candidate for mayor of New York. The New Yorker commented in its Of All Things column: “Our candi-

“Friendships are between people before they can be between nations; and they are likely to be built up in rather old-fashioned ways.”



dates for mayor have expressed their views on such matters as Palestine, the Polish problem, world peace, and atomic power. We certainly ought to know just who is best fitted to run the city hall." I should like to make a few city-hall comments—their equivalent in terms of home economics.

Surely the war proved that we serve our fellow men best by doing the things we know best how to do. Some boys who yearned to fly fighter planes were kept on the ground doing mechanical repair work or in a laboratory far from the scene of battle.

Suppose we take a close-up look at homes—those institutions for the benefit of which we are expending our time, energy, and talents. Lots of things happen in homes—important things. Many of them center about the physical needs of the human race for food, shelter, and clothing; and we need not apologize for our interest in these needs. We should feel apologetic, however, if we consider only the physical needs that food, shelter, and clothing satisfy and forget the human hungers for security, affection, recognition, new experience, esthetic enjoyment, and sense of achievement, which are often met at the same time with the tools of food, clothing, and shelter. Undoubtedly, they could be much more completely met if we were to give more thought to the matter.

Starvation and misery, especially in childhood, sow the mental seeds for future wars, the psychologists agree. (Science Newsletter.) People aren't always starved from lack of food but from eating the wrong food.

I believe home economists should limit themselves to such subjects as are of great significance to homemakers, subjects they can handle expertly and subjects not likely to be available from sources better equipped to handle them and subjects concerned with things homemakers as such can do something about.

Most food is eaten in homes; homemakers are responsible for selection and care of family clothing and household equipment and furnishings, for almost the entire care of small children, and to a considerable extent for maintaining satisfying relationships.

We have been captivated by the possibilities of better human relations and better mental health, and we have



"Let's not be afraid of the words, freedom, democracy, peace, one world, spiritual energy—even truth, goodness, and beauty, remembering that, in miniature, many, and perhaps most, of the problems that beset the world beset the family, and as the families try to solve their problems so do nations try to work out their destinies."

forgotten that these do not operate in a vacuum but are connected more often than not with the very things we've been studying and teaching for these many years.

Our heightened emotions and our tortures of uncertainty and anxiety caused by the war have turned us to family life with almost fanatical faith in its power to heal, guide, and comfort and make life worth living. At the same time we see marriages dissolved, family life disintegrating and degraded before our very eyes.

With disciplined minds and hearts we must join the search to distinguish the eternal from the outworn. This calls for more research in all areas. Our faith and hope tell us that there are eternal values in home living.

We need to limit our field to the most important things that we can reasonably expect to do well.

With courage and imagination we shall need to drop out the things we are convinced are either too little or too big for us to include and apply every test for soundness that we know to the subject matter we use. The world is everybody's business. What

is our unique business as home demonstration agents?

We shall need to remind ourselves that though they make few banner headlines, homes are important. There is ample proof that family living is one of the chief sources of human happiness. I believe Mr. Hoover was right when he said: "The unit of American life is the family and the home. It is the economic unit as well as the moral and spiritual unit. But it is more than this. It is the beginning of self-government. It is the throne of our highest ideals. It is the source of the spiritual energy of our people."

Let's not scorn food, shelter and clothing, and house furnishings. With them as our instruments let us build toward finer human relationships which seem to be the greatest single need of the moment. Let's not be afraid of the words, freedom, democracy, peace, one world, spiritual energy—even truth, goodness, and beauty, remembering that, in miniature, many, and perhaps most, of the problems that beset the world beset the family, and as the families try to

solve their problems so do nations try to work out their destinies. We need to remind ourselves, too, that friendships are between people before they can be between nations; and they are likely to be built up in rather old-fashioned ways.

A county is a large piece of ground with many homemakers, and you are just one person. Sorting out the most important things to be done is always one of the hardest jobs of an administrator, and it must be one of yours. I believe the functions of a home demonstration agent should be more carefully studied and a sort of professional standard set up for her guidance—and protection, I might add.

You need an over-all picture of social and psychological problems and as many data as you can get regarding your own county. You could safely assume that mental health is one of your problems; and without being a psychologist or a psychoanalyst you can slant your work, all of it, in the direction of the health, comfort, and happiness it means for all family members. You can do more reading in this field, not with the idea of be-

coming an expert but in order that you may have more understanding of this complex problem. You will need poise and the ability to help people see relative values without saying this is right and this wrong.

It seems to me that home economics has possibilities of interpretations that touch in a vital way man's basic needs—physical, mental, emotional. We need to work from where we are with what we have. In other words, we need to reconsider and enrich our subject matter with contributions from psychology and sociology.

We need to think about home demonstration agents as professional workers, and we need to consider what kind of future we should set out to make for them.

Make no mistake. They are exceedingly important and influential people. They can do and are doing much to improve the homemaking and the happiness of farm people. They will probably have to do more on the happiness side in the future—helping people to keep their poise and faith and hope.

Develops new farm lease plans

■ Modernized forms for leases have been developed in Indiana by the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University and are now available for distribution, reports Prof. O. G. Lloyd, head of the department.

The department has recently put out three new and three revised forms for written leases, contracts, and agreements between landowners and tenants and operators. Three of the forms will be of particular interest to returning war veterans or others who are short on capital and perhaps experience, but who wish to go into farming on a business-like basis. All six of the forms will be of interest to men who wish to retire from farming before long and lease their land, or share the responsibility of the farm operations with others.

Of the six different forms, some are leases, some are contracts, and some are agreements. The Income-Sharing contract recognizes a common situation where the landowner desires to supply the livestock, machin-

ery, and pays all bills. The owner guarantees the operator a certain wage up to a fixed amount; and "if the income were more, he receives one-third of the net income less the amount paid in wages." This plan has proved its worth on a number of Indiana farms managed by experienced landlords or by professional farm managers.

The Purdue economists offer two types of father-son agreements, one for the son without capital and the other for the son who has accumulated capital and equipment and will share in the financing. The cash-lease, crop-share lease, and livestock-share contract have been expanded to employ principles of scientific farming.

The paramount consideration in framing the leases was that "the ideal farm tenure is the owner-operator who is not heavily in debt, who has adequate capital, who cultivates his farm to conserve soil fertility, and who has organized his farm to use labor, management, and working

capital to the best advantage. Renting should create incentive to encourage these practices."

The work of revising standard Indiana leases was begun a year ago by the Purdue agricultural economists. With the first announcement of the availability of the leases, some 500 farm operators throughout the nation wrote to the department for forms. Copies are on file at the offices of the county agents in Indiana.

4-H Club girl has eye for future

Good examples of both short- and long-time planning are shown in the 4-H Club work of Faye Lakey of the Stecoah 4-H Club in Graham County, N. C.

With a college education in mind, which will begin in 1950, Faye decided in August 1944 that she would like to have a purebred O. I. C. brood sow as a 4-H Club project. The county agent helped her to get a pig from the County Lions Club pig chain. That sow on September 9, 1945, produced nine healthy pigs, seven of which were sold and yielded a profit of \$87.50. In addition to this money, Faye has also sold a cow and calf which she raised on the farm, and the total amount has been deposited in the bank to go toward her college expenses in 1950. Faye hopes that her brood sow will bring even greater profits in the coming year.

Of great importance in the realm of short-time planning for herself and her family was Faye's victory garden for the summer of 1945. In this garden, she planted, cultivated, sprayed, and harvested 20 different kinds of vegetables. She canned and stored for winter 260 quarts of these vegetables. The canned goods included 14 different vegetables, so that there will be greater variety in the family meals during the winter. Faye's garden also contained collards, parsnips, and turnips, which will be good as fall and winter garden crops.

Miss Lakey is the 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lakey, who are demonstrator farmers of the Tuskegee-Sawyer's Creek watershed area. She has been a member of the Stecoah 4-H Club for 2 years and is looking forward to many more years of active club work.

Reaching every home in Newtown, Conn.

■ For 18 years Helen L. Clark, home demonstration agent in Fairfield County, Conn., declared in her annual reports that she intended to reach more families during the next 12 months; and for 18 years she has been able to record enough of an increase to show she had carried out her aim. In 1945, however, Miss Clark decided to concentrate her expansion efforts in one town. She decided to concentrate in Newtown, Conn.

Her success is marked by the fact that between April and October 658 Newtown families, 465 more than previously approached, learned about the Agricultural Extension Service. Out of this came a petition from 30 mothers of children under 8 years of age for a mothers' club, requests for more than 5,000 extension publications, 86 requests for help in planning more convenient kitchens, and 36 requests from women who had definite problems and needed the home demonstration agent's personal advice. The Hopewell neighborhood home-making group which discontinued meetings in 1943 reorganized with 20 members instead of the 7 attending when the club disbanded, and another, which had been slipping, enthusiastically met to plan a new work program.

Canning Committee Helps

Newtown, a village of 800 families, is only 8 miles from the Danbury extension headquarters—an important point during gas rationing—and is one of the most agricultural towns in the suburban county. It also had an excellent canning committee.

In April, Miss Clark and Mrs. R. T. Clark, State home demonstration leader, called a meeting of the 16 members of this canning committee and asked them to cooperate in a project to acquaint all of Newtown's 800 families with the Extension Service. Miss Clark pointed out that at that time only 76 families attended extension meetings regularly, and only 24 more were on the mailing lists.

The 16 canning leaders immediately organized a committee to tackle the project. They elected as their chairman Mrs. B. G. Damerest, a retired home economist who once taught in Constantinople and had been active in national home economics associations before her marriage. Mrs. Roger Howson, chairman of the canning committee for 2 years, volunteered to take charge of publicity through articles in the weekly newspaper, the Newtown Bee.

Each of the 16 leaders promised to get in touch with possible neighborhood leaders so that no one individual would have to visit more than 10 families. They enlisted 65 of their friends to help conduct the survey by calling on neighbors with sample extension publications (selected by the committee of 16 leaders), information on extension services, and a list of questions to determine what new services were particularly needed.

Teaches Technique of the Visit

Before personal visits were made, Miss Clark conducted a sample interview before the leaders' and neighborhood groups to teach them the techniques of surveying. She stressed that each should explain that the Extension Service is an educational agency which supplies rural people with free information on agriculture and home economics. Extension's interest in helping housewives have more convenient homes, provide better food, guard the health of their families, and employ better sewing techniques was emphasized.

On their visits to the individual homes, the neighborhood representatives found that nearly 400 of Newtown's 470 family gardens produced enough vegetables for summer eating, canning or freezing, and storing. Three hundred and sixty homemakers were anxious to receive Garden graphs, a periodical Extension Service publication written by A. E. Wilkinson, vegetable specialist. More than 400 were added to the mailing list of the Connecticut Homemaker, a

monthly publication put out by the extension home economics specialists at the University, and 262 to Dear Ann, a monthly letter written by Lisbeth Macdonald, rural health specialist.

The leaders discovered there were 174 boys and 171 girls of 4-H age. They also kept a record of newspapers most frequently read to determine which would take extension news to the greatest number of Newtown residents.

Leaders Vote to Continue Work

In mid-September, Miss Clark and State Home Demonstration Leader Clark met with the neighborhood leaders at an afternoon tea to discuss future work. All except 1 of the 65 women were anxious to continue serving as a center for extension work in their respective neighborhoods, to receive sample publications, and to order bulletins for their neighbors. They reported that in carrying out the Reaching Every Home in Newtown project, they had developed a spirit of neighborliness among people who hadn't taken time to get acquainted with each other during the war years. An average visit lasted 2 hours, they declared, because after they had presented the extension material they always stayed to talk.

Miss Clark reports that neighborhood leaders are still bringing in cards from people who previously had not been at home. Newtown now has three good-sized groups holding regular meetings, in contrast to one last year. In addition, Miss Clark estimates that telephone requests from Newtown to the home demonstration agent's office are at least 50 percent greater than they were before the survey.

■ Piscataquis County, Maine, has a boys and girls 4-H Club which has won 24 seals of achievement. The club is the Jolly Workers' Club of East Dover. It was organized in 1920 and has been active every year since, except one. National seals of achievement are awarded each year to the 4-H Clubs which have met the high standard of achievement set by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Maine Agricultural Extension Service.

Tennessee counsels her veterans

FRANK J. WALRATH, Specialist in Agricultural Planning, Tennessee

■ The Agricultural Extension Service in Tennessee is cooperating with other agencies in advising veterans both on their rights and privileges and also as to the opportunities open to them. More than 30 county meetings with an average attendance of more than 250 persons have already been held. Some meetings have been attended by more than 500 persons, with many unable to find seats. About 80 percent of the group consists of veterans of World War II.

These county-wide meetings were arranged by the director of the personnel office of the University of Tennessee and a group of local people in each county. The local committee is composed of representatives of the American Legion and other veterans' organizations, bankers, lawyers, superintendents of schools, the county agricultural agent, and businessmen. This group usually meets about 3 weeks in advance of the actual meeting and has charge of making arrangements for the meeting and handling publicity.

Discussion Team Developed

A team or discussion panel has been worked out which includes two representatives of the State Selective Service, two representatives of the Veterans' Administration, two representatives of the University of Tennessee, one representative of the United States Employment Service, one representative of the United States Civil Service Commission, one representative of the Smaller War Plants Corporation, and one representative from the American Red Cross. In many of the meetings there are also representatives of the State Division of Veterans' Affairs, the Farm Security Administration, and other agencies.

The procedure followed in these meetings is to have the chairman call upon a local minister for invocation, after which the chairman turns the meeting over to the director of the personnel office of the University of Tennessee, who acts as discussion leader. He in turn calls upon the various members of the discussion panel

to present their information in 6 minutes. Immediately after this short talk, the discussion leader calls upon the local committee that sponsored the meeting for any questions they may wish to ask the speaker. He then turns to the audience for questions.

A question-and-answer period of 2 to 10 minutes usually follows, after which another speaker is asked to present his material and stand ready for questions. At the close of the meeting anyone in the audience who has questions that have not been answered has the privilege of going to the person who has the information on his subject for help with his particular problem.

A Typical Meeting

A typical program starts with a statement from one of the representatives of the State Selective Service, in which he calls attention to the fact that there are a number of Federal agencies, to say nothing of State, local, and voluntary organizations that are ready to serve veterans of World War II. Attention is called to three agencies in particular, namely, the Selective Service, to which the veteran must report and to which the veteran who wants his old job back looks for help; the Veterans' Administration, which has the responsibility for guaranteeing veterans' loans and providing education and training service for veterans; and the United States Employment Service, which has the responsibility of assisting veterans to obtain satisfactory employment. He also points out that the veterans must work for the right kind of peace. If the services they receive are not satisfactory, the public should "needle" the agencies that are failing to render the services required and see that the services are supplied.

The second speaker usually represents the Loan Guarantor of the Veterans' Administration. He explains the Veterans' Administration does not lend money but that it will guarantee a part of loans for the purchase of homes, farms, and small businesses. These loans must not carry more than

4 percent interest; and the guaranty may not exceed more than one-half of the entire loan up to \$4,000, and for loans above that figure, must never be more than \$2,000. He explains how applications are made, how the property is appraised, and the difference between a full-time and a part-time loan.

For veterans who are interested in farming, the representative of the Agricultural Extension Service points out the hazards in buying land at inflated land values and advises veterans who want to start farming immediately to rent a good farm or else work on a successful farm to gain additional experience. Attention is called to the opportunity for veterans to take training "on the job" and qualify for the GI subsistence allowance while working for an approved successful farmer.

The opportunities for work in the agricultural field as compared with farming are also pointed out. Custom work, repair services of various kinds, marketing, cabinet and woodwork, and professional services for farm people are cited. Three pamphlets printed by the Agricultural Extension Service for veterans who are interested are: Farm Aid for Veterans, Do You Want a Jalopy Farm? and Jobs With a Future. These leaflets are distributed at the meeting, and others may be obtained at the county agent's office.

GI Bill Explained

The fourth speaker is usually a training officer of the Veterans' Administration. He explains the length of the training service available to veterans under the GI bill (Public Law 346) and to the vocationally handicapped veterans under Public Law 16. The opportunity for training on the job, apprenticeship training, is discussed. The veteran is told whom to go to and how to apply for these benefits.

The fifth speaker, representing the State Selective Service, tells how veterans may obtain their old jobs if they want them. In addition, he calls attention to the veterans' manual put out by the Selective Service and the information or referral service that the local selective service offices can supply.

The sixth speaker, representing the United States Employment Service, deals with the question of how a veteran applies for a new job. Emphasis is placed upon the veteran making known his experience and availability. Employers are urged to provide the United States Employment Service with a list of the job opportunities they have available, both for veterans and for other civilians.

Opportunities in Civil Service

The seventh speaker, representing the United States Civil Service Commission, explains how veterans go about obtaining Federal employment. He calls attention to the fact that in addition to post office jobs, the Federal Government has many opportunities for jobs as painters, plumbers, automobile mechanics, hospital ward attendants, and numerous others. He explains that a veteran with a vocational handicap is given 10 points additional on his official grade in any civil-service examination. The same privilege is extended to widows of World War II veterans and to wives in instances where the veterans are unable to work. Veterans who have no vocational handicap have 5 points added to their earned ratings. Attention is usually called to the fact that education, experience, or training, or a combination of the three will materially assist a veteran to obtain employment.

The eighth speaker usually represents the Smaller War Plants Corporation and discusses the procedure whereby veterans can apply for surplus war property.

Other Facilities Available

The last speaker is a representative of the American Red Cross Division of Home Service who points out that the Red Cross is still striving to assist veterans to rehabilitate themselves. Attention is called to the Red Cross Handbook which is available for information. The veteran may select the American Red Cross to represent him on appeals for readjustment. Under certain conditions the Red Cross will also give the veteran financial aid until he can repay the loan.

In some meetings a representative of the Farm Security Administration briefly explains the provisions of the

Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act; but if not present, this phase of the program is discussed by the representative of the Agricultural Extension Service. When other persons who are in a position to make some contribution to the meeting are present, or representatives of the State Division of Veterans' Affairs or anyone else who has a message on veterans' rights, they are also heard.

The significance of the meetings as outlined lies in the fact that the representatives of a number of agencies are working together on an entirely voluntary program aimed at assisting veterans to help themselves and also to help their buddies who are still in the service. The value of this type of meeting is demonstrated by the fact that applications for loans and applications for training education increase rapidly in any given county immediately after the holding of such a meeting. Most of the information presented at these county-wide meetings was given to the veterans before they left the separation centers. However, veterans retain very little of the information. This may be due to the fact that they were mainly interested in receiving a discharge; secondly, the information had to be of a general nature, whereas the information as presented in county meetings is tied in closely with the local situation. The representatives of local offices that seek to serve the veteran are specifically named; and if a representative is present, he or she is presented to the entire group.

Other meetings will be held as rapidly as possible; however, as the people who serve on the discussion panel are voluntarily giving their time and have definite responsibilities to meet, they are unable to give more than 1 week out of 3 or 4 to this type of program.

Brings Problems Into the Open

Another result of these meetings is that the problems with which veterans are confronted and the opportunities which the veteran and local people have in solving them are brought out into the open. Misunderstanding is cleared up, and both the veterans and the public are stimulated to take some positive action on them.



Maine girl is successful bond salesman

■ Uncle Sam has a successful, although youthful, salesman of war bonds in the person of Carolyn Harmon of Perham, Maine. Carolyn, a 16-year-old 4-H Club member, began selling bonds in the Fourth War Bond Drive, when her sales amounted to \$4,000. In the fifth drive her sales were \$11,000; in the sixth, \$22,000; and in the seventh, \$85,500, making a total of \$122,500. As a reward for her success in the last drive she received from a local organization a trip to Washington, D. C.

Carolyn also was selected as the most outstanding 4-H Club girl in Aroostook County in 1945. At the Presque Isle Fair she won first honors in the garden and sewing projects. She also won first prize in the Aroostook County 4-H Style Dress Revue for 1945.

Miss Harmon has been a member of the Salmon Brook 4-H Club of Perham for 6 years. Her twin sister Marylyn is also a 4-H Club member and has won many honors and prizes.

■ Fifty-nine persons, all but 11 of them war veterans, were enrolled in the 10-week courses in farming at Rutgers University. This is the second session of short courses in farming held by Rutgers during this academic year. One hundred and twenty-five persons were graduated from the first, which ended December 22.

Town forest solves a land-use problem

CLARENCE A. DAY, Extension Editor, Maine

■ Six years ago the town of Troy, Maine, population 582, set aside 963 acres of abandoned farm land and wood lots as a town forest. Since then, through good management, the forest has returned a net profit to the town double the returns from taxes on

on which the taxes have not been paid. Most of these rough, broken farms ought never to have been taken from the forest in the first place and cannot produce a living under modern conditions. So the owners decline to pay taxes on the farm or wood lot



The Troy Town Forest contributed pulpwood toward the war effort.

other land of similar value. Laboring men in the town have earned more than \$8,000 working in the town forest. Some 175 acres of old, unused fields have been planted to valuable forest trees, mostly pine and spruce, and a hundred acres of cut-over woodland thinned and weeded according to approved forestry practices. Profits from the forest, amounting to about \$4,000, have been invested in war bonds as part of a fund for building a much-needed consolidated school building. And the trees in the forest have made 6 years' growth.

Like many Maine towns, Troy gradually has been acquiring small abandoned farms and cut-over wood lots from which the merchantable lumber

has been stripped, and they become the property of the town.

These tax-delinquent lands present a tough problem. If the town keeps them, they yield no tax revenue; if the town sells them, the taxes will not finance the schools, roads, and other services that the town must provide for the new owners. Often they can be sold only to families who are ne'er-do-wells and become liabilities to the town themselves.

As the Troy town fathers studied their problem, they called on two extension men for assistance and advice. They were Phil Parsons, then Waldo County agent and now county agent in Penobscot County, and Albert D. Nutting, extension forestry specialist.

They made a land-use study and came up with the answer—a town forest.

The next step was to hold a series of discussion meetings to inform the voters. Then an article was inserted in the town warrant to set aside certain lands as a permanent town forest. This article was acted upon favorably at the March meeting in 1940, and the forest came into being.

The forest is not all in one block but includes several plots in different parts of the town. This was partly because the blocks owned by the town were scattered and partly, as the first selectman, Seavey A. Piper, said: "Because we don't want to run the risk of having the whole forest wiped out by a forest fire." Since then the town has bought fire-fighting equipment and paid for it from the returns from the forest. The equipment can be used not only in the forest but anywhere in town that a grass or forest fire may occur.

Fuel and Pulpwood Marketed

Next step was to work out a careful plan for forest management with the assistance of the extension agents. Several old buildings were torn down and sold as second-hand lumber. A forest manager was employed and a start made in reforesting the old fields. To date, nearly 200,000 trees have been set, chiefly pine and spruce. Plans were made also for thinning and weeding the wooded areas. Trees removed were marketed chiefly as fuel or pulpwood. About a hundred acres have been cut over, and the best trees have been left to develop. This phase of the program has not gone as fast as was hoped because of the scarcity of labor during the war.

The town received some assistance from the Agricultural Adjustment Agency in the form of refunds on the cost of planting young trees as a forestry-improvement project, and the National Youth Administration gave part-time employment in the forest to several of the youths of the town for the first year or two.

The boys and girls 4-H Clubs in Troy have held several tree-planting bees and transplanted many of the young pines and spruces now growing so lustily. "It's their forest," says Mr. Piper, "and they are being educated early in what can be done."

Needless to say, the young people will take a lasting interest in the forest that they have helped to plant with their own hands.

Cash returns? We have already said that the forest has paid some \$8,000 to local laborers and provided about \$4,000 toward the fund for the new schoolhouse, besides furnishing lumber and fuel when they were badly needed in the war effort. The fact that the forest has provided work for local people and will continue to do so is highly important.

Other towns in Maine have adopted the idea and started forests of their own, and Mr. Piper frequently receives requests from service clubs and other organizations to speak at their meetings on the subject of town forests. He says that any rural Maine town can have a profitable town for-



Signs are posted in prominent places where young trees are planted in the Troy Town Forest.

est if they will adopt the right methods. He is too modest to say that they need someone who has an abiding interest in the forest to act as the spark plug that will insure success.

Missouri farm folks discuss future extension program

■ Farm folks representing practically every county in Missouri came together at a recent series of five sectional meetings held for the purpose of reviewing recent progress made by farm families, to discuss the needs for the future, and to elect members of the State extension advisory committee. Appearing on each of the programs with the farm people were Director J. W. Burch, J. E. Crosby, Jr., and State agents.

Speakers at the meetings pointed out the steps that had been taken along the lines of home and farmstead improvement, balanced farming, rural youth, and rural policy. They emphasized that balanced farming has proved its value beyond any doubt and now should be taken to as many farm families as possible. They stressed the importance of local leaders and sufficient extension workers in putting the program across.

Speakers indicated that balanced farming should be of first importance, with other activities fitting into it. They also pointed out that soil conservation was inseparably a part of balanced farming.

Those talking on rural youth re-

peatedly told of the need for extending 4-H Club work so as to include a greater number of farm boys and girls. They also pointed out the need for an older youth program which would include returning veterans and war workers. An end result will be communities that will work with youth so that this youth will be interested enough in farming and be equipped to stay in rural communities.

In home and farmstead improvement, farm families indicated they needed more in the way of workable plans and cost sheets. They also emphasized the importance of tours to improve homes in giving other persons ideas on how to make changes. Those present indicated that they plan many improvements in their homes during coming years to make them better places in which to live.

Director Burch and Mr. Crosby emphasized the fact that while a 36 percent increase in food production had been achieved by farm families in the face of decreased farm population during this war, the consumption of products in this country had risen only 10 percent. If full employment and production are obtained

they will tend to prevent inflation in the years ahead. They pointed out that checking accounts and savings built up by farm families during the war were largely at the expense of the soil and by families doing without needed improvements and equipment. They discussed the need for holding back on the purchases of temporarily scarce articles in order to prevent inflation.

Other problems confronting farm people in the reconversion period which these leaders discussed were the reestablishment of veterans and war workers who formerly lived in rural areas; the readjustment of production of various commodities to peacetime demands; the reestablishment of foreign markets for some farm products and maintenance of foreign purchases for others; and continuation of profitable production in spite of mounting costs and increased competition from other areas.

Corn borer control via farm boys

■ Corn borers are an increasing threat to the corn crop on many farms in Richland County, Wis., and this is of concern not only to the farmers of the county but to the businessmen as well.

Cooperating with efforts of the county agricultural committee and County Agent A. V. Miller, officials of the Richland Center Chamber of Commerce offered any farm boy who, as a demonstration of corn-borer control, would plow under satisfactorily the corn stalks on at least 3 acres on his home farm, an all-expense trip to a university basketball game.

Each boy was required to have one of his parents and a neighboring farmer sign a statement that he had done the job. In this way the attention of another farmer was brought to this method of controlling the borer.

Thirty such statements were presented to the county agent, so the chamber of commerce will pay the expenses of 30 boys to attend a basketball game at the University of Wisconsin. On their trip to Madison, they will visit the College of Agriculture, where they will talk over corn borer control with H. D. Bruhn, agricultural engineer.

Extension Service flourishes in Peru

■ Peruvian farmers, whether they live on the long, dry coastal plain, in cool Andean valleys, or on the bustling new frontier at the headwaters of the Amazon, will long have reason to remember a kindly, soft-spoken Virginian.

He is J. D. Guthrie, who fathered a Peruvian national agricultural extension service and helped to guide it through its first years. Today the "Servicio de Extension Agricola Rural" is becoming one of the most popular institutions in a country of 7 million people, most of whom make their living from the soil. It is standing firmly on its own two feet and is now manned entirely by alert young Peruvian agricultural college graduates who are enthusiastic about the ideas and methods which Mr. Guthrie brought to them from the United States.

Moreover, it has been, and will continue to be, a "people to people" means of giving some of these millions a true appreciation of the "North American" way of life.

Mr. Guthrie gave up his job as an extension agronomist at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute back to 1943 to take a wartime job with the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, an agency of the Office of Inter-American Affairs.

U. S. Needs Peruvian Crops

This job was not based on altruism—it was an extremely practical one. Japan had cornered most of the world supply of rubber, tin, quinine, rotenone, hemp, and many other vital war materials.

Peru, which despite her exposed position in the Pacific, had unhesitatingly aligned herself with the United States just after Pearl Harbor, could supply many of these things and more: Natural rubber, without which the synthetic product is useless; scarce alloy metals like vanadium, antimony, mercury, molybdenum, and tungsten. It could produce pyrethrum and rotenone to protect United States crops, and quinine to help

United States soldiers fight a jungle war. It had copper and petroleum and iron and anthracite, and leather for soldiers' gear.

To get her metals out of the ground, Peru needed more food; food for miners in remote towns of the Andes and for rubber "siringeros" (tappers) in the jungle backlands. The Institute of Inter-American Affairs sent a small but select group of United States experts to work with Peruvian agricultural authorities on that problem. Guthrie was a member of this food-supply mission.

Problems Carried Back to Farmers

He found himself in a far different world from the green Virginia countryside when his plane arrived at the 400-year-old colonial capital of Lima. On one side towered the "Sierra," with white peaks 20,000 feet high. On the other, melting away in haze, was the "Costa," a desert as arid as the Sahara. As soon as he stepped into the air depot, he discovered that the smattering of Spanish he got in Washington didn't help him to understand a word of the rapid-fire conversation going on around him.

But a far different culture, and a strange language were difficulties which Guthrie surmounted with patience and good will.

The Peruvians soon learned to like a "cientifico"—a scientist—who talked common sense and could step out in a field and demonstrate how to put his ideas into practice.

Above all, they liked the democratic way in which he went about organizing an extension service for Peru. As far as he was concerned, this was no "made in the U. S. A." idea imported just to meet a wartime crisis. It was to be a permanent proposition and to rest on the understanding and acceptance of the people. Guthrie took the matter directly to the farmers themselves, just as it would be done back in Virginia.

Rich hacienda owners and sturdy peasant villagers, Limenos with proud Spanish names, and highland wheat farmers equally proud to have Inca

blood in their veins, listened together to the story of how farmers worked democratically to solve their problems in Montgomery and Hanover Counties.

They discussed the question and agreed that the farmers of La Libertad and Arequipa provinces could profit by the experiences of their "North American" counterparts. Not one community where the story was told turned down Mr. Guthrie's idea.

Committees of farmers and stockmen were set up in these provincial centers. To each of these areas, young Peruvian agronomists who had worked with Mr. Guthrie were assigned.

Peru had plenty of intelligent young men who were well trained in the technical and theoretical side of agricultural science at her national school at La Molina. She also had agricultural experts educated in Chile—and even at Texas A. and M.

What she really needed was, as Mr. Guthrie puts it, "to carry the benefits of scientific research to the farmer and to explain things in words that he could understand."

This was the practical goal that Guthrie set for himself and the Peruvians who worked with him.

Peruvians Take to Cooperative Idea

The agents of this new "Servicio de Extension Agricola Rural" went regularly to the farmer committees to find out the needs of the communities and decide what could be done about them. Problems were more difficult than they are in the United States. They included great difficulties in transport and marketing as well as the matters of insects and disease.

However, they tackled all of these problems boldly, and they have licked many of them. Tons upon tons of good seed—wheat, barley, and potato—moved directly from one community to another where seed was needed. The extension agents acted as the middlemen.

Peruvians are confirmed individualists, but they took to this cooperative idea and carried it further. One example: A group of farmers who needed heavy tractors but who hadn't been able to buy them because of the machinery shortage—and the price tag,

with its big freight charges—got together and purchased one.

SCIPA (Servicio Cooperativo Inter-Americano de Produccion de Alimentos)—the joint Peruvian-American planning and development organization set up during the war—brought in good Brown Swiss bulls and Holstein heifers; purebred Poland China and Duroc boars to improve the native “Criollo” hogs. It brought in good strains of seed and insect sprayers. Peru sent back more and more metals and raw materials to win the war.

Townpeople as well as country people got into the spirit of the thing. Peruvians have been accustomed to the heavy, starchy diets that an older generation of North Americans once favored. They had never been enthusiastic about the vitamin-giving qualities of what they considered “rabbit food.”

However, soon after SCIPA began considering the problem of increasing food production for the war, victory gardens began to burgeon from Trujillo to Arequipa. President Manuel Prado himself planted the first packet of vegetable seed from the United States, and huge Spanish banners and clever placards everywhere helped launch the Nation-wide campaign for more production and better nutrition.

In all of these efforts, the Peruvians trained by Mr. Guthrie played a vital role, imparting the enthusiasm and the “know-how” to carry through to success.

Building for the Future

The war is over now, and some of the war crops are no longer needed. But the need of the Peruvians for better farming and a higher standard of living remains just as great.

In some 20 regional offices, the “Representantes Rurales,” as they call extension agents, are working to build this better life for all the rural people. That, of course, will mean a better life in the new industrial centers, like coal-rich Chimbote, which are beginning to stir with activity.

One of the notable accomplishments of the Peruvian Extension program was the sending of three extension district agents, Mr. La Barthe, Mr. Summers, and Mr. Talleri, to the United States for a training period in extension work. Each of these gen-

tlemen came to the States during 1945 and completed a 3 months' schedule of training which provided ample opportunity to observe our extension program as it is carried forward in the various States.

The training outline for these “Good Neighbor” extension agents was planned by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in cooperation with the Extension Service. These men studied extension work in California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Beyond the ideas and concrete techniques which these men brought back and used in developing extension work in Peru, it is probable that for years to come the extension program in that country will be reaping benefits from what these district agents learned on visits in the United States. What they saw of 4-H Club work, livestock and crop production, irrigation methods, and farm organization will pay dividends in more modern agricultural methods for a long time. The immediate benefits are many. One of these is making possible the development of 4-H Clubs, plans for which have been made.

That work will continue to grow, year after year, long after the “norte-americanos” are gone—but the “North Americans” will not be forgotten.

The kind of international action program carried on by SCIPA in Peru, Mr. Guthrie believes, is an important corollary to understanding between diplomats of different countries. It pays dividends in the lasting esteem and friendship of one people for another.

■ DR. T. B. SYMONS, University of Maryland Extension Director and Dean of Agriculture, received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Farm Bureau Federation for “his years of untiring work in behalf of farmers.”

In accepting the award, Dr. Symons, who has worked with Maryland farmers since he joined the staff of the Maryland Agricultural College in 1902, pointed out that the aim of the Extension Service is always to demonstrate facts, increase income, and make more happy homes in rural America.



Poultry debeaking

Upon the suggestion of R. V. Page, prominent Toms River, N. J., poultryman, a poultry-debeaking machine was purchased for the Ocean County Extension Service office for demonstration purposes. Before purchasing the machine, Agricultural Agent Herbert C. Bidlack corresponded with W. E. Newlon, poultry specialist of the California Extension Service, and found that the practice of debeaking the birds to prevent cannibalism was used widely in the State of California and was highly recommended. Mr. Bidlack says that since about a year ago he has held 25 demonstrations and has debeaked more than 5,000 laying birds.

Birds from 4 months of age up to 2 years, laying anywhere from 15 percent to as high as 85 percent, were debeaked. In all cases picking was stopped immediately; and, with few exceptions, no loss in production was reported. The few exceptions affected production 5 percent to 10 percent for a week or 10 days, after which time the birds came back to their normal rate of laying.

For economy as well as good management, there is no comparison between this type of antipick control and the use of specs, goggles, shields, and other antipick devices commonly used. There is no reason why the machine cannot be used for many thousands of birds before replacement is necessary. In fact, the heating facility is probably the only part of the machine that would need replacement over a period of years.



Have you read

HOME PLAY, OUTDOORS-INDOORS, PARTIES A TO Z, DAY CAMPING. National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

■ These four new bulletins have just come from the National Recreation Association. They are intriguing in their appearance and offer some really useful ideas for Extension.

The first one, **HOME PLAY**, emphasizes the fact that the family whose members have fun together finds life closer and smoother. The booklet contains 91 pages of suggestions. The pen drawings should stimulate families into action.

OUTDOORS INDOORS starts out with the question: "Has it ever occurred to you that it isn't necessary to go out of doors to enjoy nature? . . . There is something very intriguing about the ideas of nature through a window, and it opens up a whole new field of fascinating activities." This booklet provides 45 pages of interesting nature activities that families can carry out in their homes or 4-H Club members can enjoy at some of their meetings.

PARTIES A TO Z contains 96 pages of detailed directions for conducting many kinds of parties. The activities are grouped under such headings as Preparty Activities, Musical Games, Mixer and Scatter Activities, Songs and Song Ideas, Mental Games, Spectator Activities, Small Group Activities and Stunts, and so on through all the possibilities of recreation as we have known it. The interesting paragraphs on organizing the party will be very helpful for community and neighborhood meetings.

With the spread of camping interest and the complexity of everyday life, making it difficult for even the children to get away from home for a long camping period, **DAY CAMPING** offers some suggestions for a pleasurable experience for youngsters and adults as well. This could be easily carried out by a 4-H Club or a family or neighborhood group.

All four booklets are interesting

reading and so well arranged that they can be very easily used.—*Mrs. Lydia Ann Lynde, extension specialist in parent education.*

AGRICULTURE IN AN UNSTABLE ECONOMY. A research study for the Committee for Economic Development. *Theodore W. Schultz.* 299 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1945.

■ As the title of this interesting and easily read book implies, primary consideration is directed to the interrelationships of agriculture and other segments of the national economy. The author indicates the main purpose of the book "is to lay the foundations for a national policy with regard to agriculture." In so doing, only passing attention is directed to numerous problems within agriculture in relation to which farmers themselves, individually or collectively, can adopt remedial measures.

Attention is directed primarily to those causative factors contributing to economic distress in agriculture which have their origin outside of agriculture. The two basic causes to which the author ascribes most of the so-called "farm problem" are an excess of workers engaged in agriculture and the instability of agricultural income. He indicates that satisfactory solutions to these problems cannot be found within agriculture itself and that progress can be made only through a direct attack upon the underlying causative difficulties.

As a background for specific suggestions regarding principles which should govern the development of public policies affecting agriculture, brief but analytical reviews are included of (a) prospective conditions affecting agriculture, (b) some fundamentals of the agricultural problem in a fluctuating economy, and (c) government programs and controls which were used during the depression and war years in an attempt to cope with emergency situations.

In part IV, specific consideration is directed to problems in agricultural

policy. Suggestions are made as to measures which should be avoided and those which should be employed in attacking the problem of underemployment (surplus of workers) in agriculture. In relation to stabilizing farm income, two major methods of attack are proposed. These are stabilization of nonagricultural employment at a high level and a system of compensatory payments to farmers when business becomes depressed and a significant degree of unemployment prevails.

Interesting and thought-provoking chapters are included which deal with principles which should govern the development of (a) production adjustment policies and programs, and (b) price policies for agricultural commodities. The need for "forward" pricing is stressed.

This forward-looking book is a valuable contribution to the literature on the economic problems of agriculture. It is well worth reading by all those having an interest in this field.—*P. V. Kepner, Assistant to the Director, Cooperative Extension Service.*

Women make accident surveys

"Let's see" was an appropriate motto for 640 Arkansas home demonstration clubs in which fire and accident surveys were made this year in communities throughout the State.

According to reports of Mrs. Ted Wright of Logan County, farm women in more than 1,000 clubs studied prevention or elimination of minor hazards in homes. Mrs. Wright was 1945 chairman of the safety committee of the Arkansas Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. Time was devoted to demonstrations on construction and use of kitchen stepladders to provide convenient access to high shelves and to avoid needless falls.

Lois Scantland, northwest district agent, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, says a survey in one county showed that the most serious accidents among adults resulted from dangerous fire-building practices.

4-H Club skits added action to the story of safety in Columbia County. A club in Crittenden County furnished a community first-aid room at the school.

Phillips County club women put up warning posters in dangerous public places.

We Study Our Job

4-H Junior-leader study

In a 45-page booklet, T. T. Martin, Missouri State club agent, brings together the findings of research on junior leaders in the 4-H Club program, principally in the Central States. The 675 junior leaders and other mature 4-H members, consisting of 258 boys and 417 girls, who assisted the adult voluntary 4-H leaders of their clubs in five States studied, are considered as typical of the junior leadership of the Central States.

Such factors as the objectives of junior leadership, kinds of junior leaders and their responsibilities, and the place of the junior leadership system in 4-H Club work are analyzed.

The author emphasizes training 4-H junior leaders and suggests a procedure in training. He lists some of the most difficult 4-H training jobs or situations, such as occupational information and vocational guidance, the cooperation of parents, training 4-H members to demonstrate and to judge, and keeping records and making reports.

In summarizing the study, Mr. Martin points out,

"One of the big problems in this adult leader or adviser—junior-leader relationship is that of guidance and supervision. Often adults try to do all the leadership activities themselves because they have not learned how to direct others. This job requires special training in short courses or in county conferences under the instruction of specialists.

"The training of junior leaders consists of in-service training, based largely upon their own 4-H Club experiences; and special training in short courses and county conferences in order to learn how to assist with the most difficult leadership jobs. This training procedure includes demonstrating to the junior assistants, or planning with them, how to do the specific jobs; an opportunity to do these leadership jobs under supervision; and finally, being placed on their own and their performances checked.

"It is difficult to measure the results of junior leadership; however, it may be done as follows: The benefits to the club will be reflected in the improved activities and morale which can be evaluated by questions or a weighted score card; the activities of each junior assistant can be measured by having blanks filled out on what was done; and the personal development of the junior leader can be evaluated by a self-checking list of leadership characteristics recognized, developed and improved."—JUNIOR LEADERS IN THE 4-H CLUB PROGRAM by T. T. Martin, Missouri Extension Service. Extension Study 2, Oct. 1945, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri.

County extension workers' time patterns

The different types of county extension workers report approximately the same relative amount of time spent in the field and in the office. However, as has been noted, in the 3 previous issues of the REVIEW, they use their time in a different manner. The most striking differences are in the amounts of time devoted to method demonstrations, farm-and-home visits, and office calls.

The average home demonstration agent spent relatively four times as many hours on method demonstrations as the average county agricultural agent. In turn, county agricultural agents used four times as much time on office calls. The home demonstration agents spent two-thirds as much time on farm-and-home visits as did county agricultural agents.

Over a period of years the statistical reports reveal certain changes in this pattern. The home demonstration agents have decreased the proportion of time devoted to both result and method demonstrations and increased the proportion devoted to farm-and-home visits and office calls.

The decrease in the county agent's time given to both method and result demonstrations was even more

marked than for home demonstration agents. The increase in time devoted to office calls, on the part of county agricultural agents, was the most marked of all the changes.

The reported changes in the proportion of time employed in the different subject-matter phases of the extension program may partially explain the changes in methods used.

Most home economics subject matter taught through the extension system lends itself readily to the method demonstration, while the agricultural subject matter, in early days of extension work, was taught primarily through result demonstrations. However, as the agricultural extension programs evolved, meetings, farm-and-home visits, and office calls were used much more frequently.

During recent years the home demonstration agents reported they increased their activities in all phases of their programs. The county agricultural agents reported they decreased the amount of time devoted to corn, wheat, cotton, and tobacco but increased their activities relating to legumes and pastures. Apparently when another agency becomes active with reference to certain crop enterprises the county agricultural agents lessen their activities in this field and increase them in others.

This is further illustrated by the change in distribution of use of time in the agricultural economics field. The amount of time reported as devoted to farm-management and outlook problems increased, while activities on the part of county extension workers with reference to farm credit decreased. Similarly, extension activities with reference to all types of livestock increased, with the exception of swine.

The reported changes in the use of time patterns raise the question as to whether the shift from the use of demonstration methods to individual services through farm-and-home visits and office calls has increased the efficiency of the Extension Service or not.



Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Medicine From Buckwheat Plants

■ After a 2-year search for a good source of the valuable drug, rutin, the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory has discovered that the green buckwheat plant yields enough of it to make it an economical commercial source. Rutin has been found valuable in the treatment of weakened capillaries associated with high blood pressure. Bursting of such weakened blood vessels in the brain may cause apoplexy.

Buckwheat has proved superior to other plants as a source of rutin. Flue-cured tobacco leaves are the next-best source, but buckwheat contains 8 to 20 times as much rutin as the tobacco and costs so much less that Department scientists have said that "Ten dollars' worth of buckwheat will produce as much rutin as a thousand dollars' worth of tobacco." The rutin is found in the leaves and blossoms of buckwheat, with little in the stems and none in the grain.

For highest yield of the drug, the crop is harvested 5 weeks after the seed has sprouted. Producers growing buckwheat for rutin could harvest two or more crops a season. It has been estimated that 50,000 acres of buckwheat will be required annually to supply the drug, which has possibilities as a nutritional supplement similar to Vitamin C as well as the medical use.

The University of Pennsylvania Medical School cooperated with the laboratory in proving the clinical value of rutin. At least four pharmaceutical companies are planning commercial production in 1946.

Improvements in Cheese Making

■ It is possible to speed up the ripening of Cheddar cheese by curing it at a higher temperature than has been the general practice, say De-

partment dairy scientists, provided the milk is of good quality and is pasteurized. Cheeses held at 60° F. were as fully ripened in 3 to 4 months as others held at 50° for 6 months. Moreover, the flavor of the cheeses that were aged faster was generally better.

Earlier studies showed that Cheddar cheese of uniformly high quality can be made from pasteurized milk, and the cheese industry has widely adopted the Department's method for making cheese with pasteurized milk. As a result, the proportion of top-grade cheese produced has increased, and that of the lower grades has decreased markedly. Several States have recently passed laws requiring that all cheese sold be made from pasteurized milk. In view of this, a method recently developed by the Bureau of Dairy Industry for determining whether the milk used in making a cheese was pasteurized will be of great practical value. The method is a modification of the phosphatase test commonly used to determine the adequacy of pasteurization of milk. In testing cheeses by this method, a decrease of only 2° in the pasteurizing temperature or the presence of as little as 0.1 percent of raw milk can be detected.

Hard-shells

■ For more than 9 years, the Bureau of Animal Industry has been studying the hereditary factors in poultry that affect eggshell quality. In this breeding work, poultry scientists have developed two lines of chickens—one that produces eggs with good shells and one whose eggs have poor shells. There is a pronounced difference between the two. The good shells are thicker, less porous, and harder to break. It took 6.3 pounds of pressure, on an average, to break the stronger shells and only 4.2 pounds to

break the weaker. Because the poor shells are thinner and have more and larger pores, those eggs lose weight more rapidly. As a consequence it has been shown that loss in egg weight can be used as a measure of shell quality. An egg with a good shell is not necessarily an egg of the highest grade, but it has a better chance of getting to market. More than three times as many eggs were broken in the poor-shell line as in the good-shell line in routine collections; and the thinner, more porous shells permit a quicker loss of egg quality. Breeding chickens for improved quality of eggshells should benefit producers, distributors, and consumers.

Alfalfa Silage vs. Alfalfa Hay

■ Tests made by the Bureau of Dairy Industry have shown that the milk-producing value of alfalfa is greater when it is preserved as silage than when it is field-cured. The protein content of dry matter was found to be 21 percent in the silage and 15 percent in the hay. Cows on the silage produced about 7 percent more milk than those on hay. At the beginning of the trials, the silage contained 9 times as much carotene as the hay; but at the end, because the hay lost carotene at a higher rate, the silage was 14 times as rich in carotene. Because of this higher carotene content the milk from the cows fed silage was higher in vitamin A potency.

New Varieties of Crop Plants

■ Plant breeders of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, in cooperation with the State experiment stations, released 28 new varieties of crop plants during the past year. The new plants have been bred for improved yields and resistance to disease, heat, drought, or cold. They comprise 6 new wheats, 3 corn hybrids, 5 varieties of oats, 2 barleys, 2 cantaloups, 2 onions, 2 peaches, and 1 new variety each of cotton, crimson clover, vetch, lettuce, sugar beets, and strawberries.

NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK will be observed March 31-April 7. Negro agents are using this opportunity to mobilize their forces for a stronger health program for rural Negroes.

Among Ourselves

■ **GLENN W. LYCAN**, Sheboygan County, Wis., agricultural agent, has been named the 1945 winner of the traveling trophy awarded annually for the most outstanding county extension project plan in eastern Wisconsin. The winner was picked by a committee of State extension specialists.

Sheboygan County won the trophy on its small-grain program. This consisted of trials of varieties and fertilizers for adaptation to local conditions. The trials were made on the Sheboygan County farm. Lycan cooperated with maltsters and feed dealers in developing and carrying out the program.

A series of 30 meetings is being set up by Lycan throughout the county this year in order to give the results of the trials to all farmers of the county.

Lycan was also honored at the national convention of county agents in Chicago in December for long service as a county agent. He has been Sheboygan County agent since January 1, 1935. Previously, he had been county agent in St. Croix County from February 1, 1927, until his transfer to Sheboygan County.

J. F. Thomas, Waukesha County agent, held the traveling trophy during the last year, awarded him for his 1944 poultry program.

■ **MARGARET NELSON**, a Missouri home demonstration agent for 26 years, retired from full-time duty December 31, 1945, in Cass County, Mo., where she had served for more than 21 years. She was responsible for organizing the first county council of rural women's clubs in Missouri.

Miss Nelson attended Central Missouri State Teachers' College and the University of Missouri. She is a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary extension fraternity, and was named outstanding home demonstration agent of Missouri in 1944 by the National Home Demonstration Agents Association.

She taught home economics at

Beaver Dam, Wis., before entering the Extension Service in Missouri. She served 4½ years as home demonstration agent in Linn County, Mo., and assumed the same duties in Cass County in March 1924.

When she came to Cass County there were only 7 home economics extension clubs, with a total membership of 146. A hard worker and devoted to her job, Miss Nelson rapidly expanded the number of extension clubs. Now there are 40 active units with a membership of 917.

On December 6, 1928, Miss Nelson called together representatives of 29 neighborhood women's clubs, 3 standard community organizations, and members of the executive committee of the county farm bureau to establish the first county council of rural women's clubs ever to be organized in Missouri.

A tabulation of 2 decades of Miss Nelson's work in Cass County shows that 37,858 practices were adopted in food and nutrition, 64,066 in home management, 57,888 in clothing, and 10,614 in health. The health project was discontinued in 1933, accounting for the lowest figure.

Not only the women of the county were contacted by her home demonstration program but also the young people. She sponsored a 4-H Club program which has enrolled more than 2,000 rural girls.

Miss Nelson was untiring in her efforts to accomplish her goal that each "farm woman maintain and manage a comfortable, convenient, and attractive home that will meet the physical and social needs of the family."

T. M. Campbell honored

■ **National and State Agricultural Extension** officials from Washington and Auburn joined with Negro extension agents of the State and Tuskegee Institute in honoring T. M. Campbell, negro field agent for the southernmost tier of States.

The occasion marked Mr. Camp-

bell's 40 years with the Extension Service. Formal exercises were held in the Institute Chapel in the early evening, at which time a bust of Mr. Campbell was unveiled and presented to Tuskegee Institute to be placed in the extension building on the institute campus.

In the opening chapel program, A. A. Hicks, president of the Alabama Negro County Agents Association reviewed the growth of Negro extension work from Mr. Campbell's appointment as first agent in 1906 until today when there are more than 600 Negro agents.

P. O. Davis, director, Alabama Extension Service, told the students that "forty years ago, Tom Campbell was a student here like you are today, and this testimonial in recognition of his service should be an inspiration to you."

In his tribute to Mr. Campbell, Dr. L. N. Duncan, president of Auburn's Polytechnic Institute, Alabama, and former State extension director, said: "I had the rare privilege of working very intimately with Mr. Campbell from the time he was appointed in 1906 until I left the Extension Service a few years ago. The total length of those years was around 30, about a third of a century; and in those years we were pioneering in a great educational enterprise. Those were rich and rare and delightful years working side by side with him."

On behalf of the Negro County Agents who originated the idea of presenting the bust and financed its making by Isaac Hathaway, director of the Institute's Division of Ceramics, W. T. Gravitt, agent at Huntsville, made the formal presentation of the bust to Dr. I. A. Derbigny who, in the absence of President F. D. Patterson, received it for the Institute.

President Patterson's message of felicitation said that "History will associate the name of T. M. Campbell with those of Seaman A. Knapp, Booker T. Washington, and George W. Carver who made of their lives careers of service to the Nation.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

TO GET FOOD GROWING once again on fought-over land is a big aim of UNRRA this spring. Shipments of more than 50,000 tons of seed speeded to nine European countries and China arrived in time for spring planting. These include wheat, barley, oats, rye, and seed corn; forage crops, grasses, and root crops for animal feed; vegetable seed and seed potatoes; some industrial seeds, principally for oil and fiber, and also beets for sugar.

VEGETABLE SEEDS FOR CHINA are packaged in kits for distribution to farm families. Each contains enough to sow about half an acre with beets, cabbages, beans, carrots, onions, and cauliflower. One hundred thousand packets will be distributed by UNRRA in North China and 50,000 in the South.

TO REPLENISH POULTRY FLOCKS, the first 30 crates of hatching eggs were flown to Czechoslovakia the middle of February. They had to go by air to be placed in incubators within 7 days after they were laid. Incubators were landed previously. In addition, several hundred cockerels and pullets are going forward by boat. Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Albania are among the other countries, sharing in the poultry program this spring.

TO FEED THE CHILDREN OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the 4-H Club delegates at the National 4-H Club Congress, held in Chicago early in December, voted to donate the balance of their ambulance fund. The check that went forward last month to UNRRA was for \$3,325.46. Each carton of food will be marked "For the Czechoslovakia Child-Feeding Project from the 4-H Club Boys and Girls of the United States of America."

MORE ABOUT UNRRA and the work of rehabilitating agriculture in war-torn countries will be given in an article to be published next month.

THREE CASES OF FRUIT TREE CUTTINGS contributed to Russian Relief by the New York State Experiment Station, the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station, and the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota were sent last month via S. S. *Minsk*, along with 160 tons of other urgently needed relief supplies. The cuttings included 100 varieties of apples, 22 grapes, 26 cherries, 25 pears, 31 peaches, and 45 plums. Grafting and setting will be done under the supervision of Soviet agricultural and horticultural experts.

NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK is set for the week of May 5. Special radio programs, magazine articles, and meetings will tell of the work of home demonstration clubs in meeting the problems of the American rural home in wartime and the plans for helping the rural family to make a better peacetime world. The idea was suggested by the National Home Demonstration Council, meeting in Columbus, Ohio, last fall and was approved by the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Land-Grant College Association.

THE RURAL HEALTH JOB is a big one on which the Extension Service is helping to focus attention. Elin Anderson, who has been loaned by the Farm Foundation to help in launching rural health plans, arrived in Washington the middle of last month. She is well-known as a pioneer in this field, having helped to develop a successful system of rural hospitalization and medical service in Nebraska.

FLYING FARMER AND RANCHER session of Organized Agriculture—the Nebraska Farm and Home Week brought out 450 people on February 4 in spite of bad weather. Seventy-five planes were flown in to the meeting by farmers. Nebraska followed the lead of Oklahoma in organizing a "flying farmers club."

SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME is here. Beginning this month in the South and finishing in the North in May,

special weeks are being designated in local communities to mobilize the clean-up forces to prevent disease, fire, and accidents. A farm-and-home check-up sheet is available for the 1946 spring clean-up to measure effectiveness of the job done and give suggestions for what more needs to be done.

TWENTY-THREE AGRICULTURAL MISSIONARIES attended the Seminar on Extension Education held in Washington February 5-15. There were 13 men and 10 women at home on furlough from all parts of the world—Angola, Burma, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, and Syria. They studied extension methods in agriculture and home making. This is the second year for the seminar in cooperation with Agricultural Missions, Inc. This group proved to be experienced extension workers in foreign countries sponsored by their respective church organizations. They were particularly interested in getting new bulletins and reading material to replace that lost and destroyed by invading armies.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to T. J. W. BROOM, county agent in Union County, N. C., who celebrates his eightieth birthday on March 18. He began county agent work about January 1, 1908. Director Schaub says of him: "I doubt if we have an agent in North Carolina who has exerted a greater influence on the life of the people than has Mr. Broom during the 37 years or more he has served in Union County." Many happy returns of the day, Agent Broom!

PAN-AMERICAN DAY will be April 14. Plans for widespread observance are being made by the Federal Government, including the Department of Agriculture.

REGIONAL FARM LABOR CONFERENCES held at Salt Lake City, St. Louis, and Baltimore, January 24-February 8, brought members of the Federal Extension staff into contact with extension, farm labor, and land-grant college representatives from all States and served to help get the organizations squared away for what looks like another difficult year. The youth program, revised to postwar years on the basis of work experience and educational values for city and town boys and girls, will be an important factor in helping bridge the labor gap in at least 25 States. More accent on better labor utilization through training and job simplification programs also will be important in getting the farm food production job done.

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Prepared in the
Division of Extension Information
Lester A. Schlup, *Chief*

CLARA L. BAILEY, *Editor*
DOROTHY L. BIGELOW, *Associate Editor*
GERTRUDE L. POWER, *Art Editor*

EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.